

City of Brunswick
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 7:04 P.M.

The August 11, 2015 City of Brunswick Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Karin Tome at Brunswick City Hall. The following members and staff were present: Karin Tome, Mayor; Angel White, Mayor Pro Tem; Walt Stull, Ellis Burruss, Carroll Jones, Harry Lashley, and Jeff Snoots, Council Members; Bob McGrory, City Administrator; Milt Frech, Chief of Police; John Gerstner, Superintendent of Public Works; Bruce Dell, Planning and Zoning Administrator; and Carrie Myers, Office Manager.

Mayor's Remarks

- Mayor Tome read the following statement: The Brunswick City Council met in closed session on August 11, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall to discuss personnel issues, and to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters related directly thereto. The authority to close this meeting is found in Article 10-508 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mayor Tome, Mayor Pro Tem White, Council Members Burruss, Jones, Lashley, Snoots, and Stull and City Administrator McGrory were present. The Council discussed the following items: Real Property Acquisition – discussed the possible acquisition of a piece of real property for a public purpose, and authorized staff action; and Personnel Matters - approved a specific action about a specific employee.
- Mayor Tome announced that Council Member White assumed the role of Mayor Pro Tem for the remainder of her term.
- Mayor Tome discussed her pride in the Brunswick Community's response to the recent fire in downtown Brunswick.

Approval of Minutes

- Mayor & Council Meeting – July 14, 2015
- Mayor & Council Special Meeting – July 28, 2015

Mr. Burruss made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lashley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Citizens' Forum (Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications)

Comments were offered from: Charlotte Gaither – 204 East H Street, Jessica Shaw – 1201 Moore Springs Court, Peggy French – 53 Concord Drive, Jennifer Knowles – 401 9th Avenue, Katherine Reig – 115 Fiona Way, Tom Smith – 211 Wintergreen Lane, Marianne Willburn –

Lovettsville, Abbie Ricketts – Jefferson, Chris Holte – 25 East C Street, Angie Desano – 208 East H Street, Brett Novick – Brunswick Street, Michelle Lee – 406 Potomac Street, Eric Beasley – 27 East E Street, Ginger Cayo – 1404 Musgrove Alley – Christy Bush – Frederick, Michael Tuthill – 71 Wenner Drive, Jeff Rainey – Frederick, Amy Tuthill – 71 Wenner Drive, Carmen Lescure – 5th Avenue, Jamie Webb – Knoxville, John Dayton – 608 Brunswick Street.

Introduction and Adoption of Resolutions and Ordinances

- Ordinance 516 – Amending Code of Ordinances Section 6-2402 – Enumerated Public Nuisances

Mr. Burruss read the proposed ordinance, with one noted correction. Council Member Jones offered comments. Mr. Lashley made a motion to approve Ordinance 516. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

- Ordinance 517 – History Commission

Mr. Stull read the proposed ordinance. Ms. White made a motion to approve Ordinance 517. Mr. Snoots seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

- Ordinance 518 – Vacant Property

Mr. Lashley read the proposed ordinance. Mr. McGrory discussed feedback received from the Economic Development Commission after the Council packets were disseminated. There was a brief discussion about blighted properties. Council Member Burruss suggested several possible changes, and Mr. Dell clarified some questions from the Council. This item will be brought to a Public Hearing and vote in September.

- Resolution 2015-02 – Proposed Charter Change – Section 16-20 Recall of Elected Officers

Mr. McGrory detailed proposed changes to the resolution language and timeline, as well as state law. Mr. Lashley thanked the rest of the Council for help drafting this recommended change. There was a lengthy discussion regarding referendum requirements, and Mr. McGrory noted that he was unaware of any legal mechanism to change the City of Brunswick Charter other than by petition or by Council action to adopt a resolution, as described in Maryland law. This legislation is scheduled for public hearing and vote in September.

Report of Officers – Council - Committees

Mr. McGrory discussed administrative staff reports.

Council Members provided updates on their Committee activities, including announcements related to the City of Brunswick Economic Development Commission, Brunswick Family Campground, Brunswick Senior Center, Fire Department, Ambulance Department, Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce, Brunswick Heritage Museum, Canal Towns, Brunswick Main Street, Park Heights Cemetery, and Sustainable Brunswick.

Consent Agenda

- Purchase Approvals – Public Works

Purchase Order #PW-4366 was for Apple Ford in the amount of \$19,438 for the purchase of a 2015 Ford Transit Connect Van. Purchase Order #PW-436 was for Apple Ford in the amount of

\$38,488 for the purchase of a F350 pick-up truck with snow plow and salt spreader. Purchase Order #PW-4373 was for Alban Cat in the amount of \$15,763.21 for the purchase of a cold planer. And Purchase Order #PW-4371 was for LB Water Service in the amount of \$36,293 for the purchase of flow meters.

- Public Information Act Policy Changes

The General Assembly passed SB695/HB 755, which amended the state's Public Information Act (PIA). This request was to approve changes to the City's PIA policy in accordance with changes made by the state.

Mr. Burruss made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lashley seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

New Business

- Plan of Organization and Salary Scale

Mr. McGrory discussed this item and will bring it back for a vote in September.

- Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 Title 2 – Animal Control

Mayor Tome expressed her interest in hearing input from all Council Members on this issue. Council Member Burruss read the proposed ordinance language into the record. Mr. Burruss stated the issue was not going away and was in favor of reaching a compromise. Mr. Snoots is not in favor of allowing chickens in Brunswick. Mr. Stull is opposed to chickens and believes the current ordinance is adequate. Ms. White does not want to allow chickens in Brunswick. Mr. Jones is against allowing chickens. Mr. Lashley is in favor of allowing chickens.

Mayor Tome suggested having staff create a pilot program and bring the issue back for a vote at the September meeting. Council Members Snoots, Stull, White, and Jones each stated they would not consider a pilot program.

Adjournment

Mr. Stull moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Snoots seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Submitted by: Carrie Myers

Approved By: Kari Tome 9/10/2015
Mayor Date

Witnessed By: [Signature] 9/10/2015
City Administrator Date